

COUNTRY

East Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Military Information from Plauen

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 25 August to 12 September 1952

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DATE OBTAINED

REFERENCES

PAGES 2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. During the period from 9 to 12 September 1952, the Hindenburg Kaserne on Neuendorfer Strasse, Plauen (N 51/K 12), was occupied to capacity by a unit whose personnel wore black-bordered crimson epaulets and red-bordered black epaulets. On 10 September, about 1,000 troops with rifles, submachine guns, mortars, light machine guns, and heavy machine guns marched from the installation toward Schneckengruen. About 2,000 men with the same arms and additional signal equipment marched toward Kobitzschwalde. The latter unit was followed by 100 soldiers with gas masks. Both units were followed from the barracks installation toward Kobitzschwalde. Each unit was followed by 100 motor vehicles observed in the billeting area.

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2. During the period from 9 to 12 September, the Koenig Georg Kaserne on Neuendorfer Strasse, Plauen, was occupied to capacity. There was intensive activity in the barracks yard and on the Kobitzschwalde troop training grounds. Part of the troops who left the Hindenburg Kaserne on 10 September to have belonged to the unit in the Koenig Georg Kaserne.

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3. On 12 September, the Kirchbach Kaserne on Zadera Strasse was occupied. Sentries wore red-bordered black epaulets. About 80 soldiers drilled in the barracks yard.

4. On 25 August, the troops from the post practiced at the Kobitzschwalde troop training grounds, with 16 model JS-3 tanks which were lined up and extended for a stretch of about 1 km. Five groups of 10 trucks each forming a barricade behind the tanks also participated. About another 50 tanks were parked individually behind the tank line and were well camouflaged. Troops with numerous machine guns were in fox holes about 200 meters behind the tanks along the entire front. About every fifth soldier was behind a light machine gun and every second man behind a heavy machine gun. Telephone lines were strung behind the front. Several jeeps and motorcycles occupied by officers with white arm bands were seen in the training area. Trucks were seen between the Hindenburg Kaserne and the troop training grounds. Cyclic firing was heard from the drill grounds at about 12:30 p.m. As early as 3:45 p.m. on that day, the

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unit previously observed engaged in the field exercise was reviewed by two generals along the Mehltene-Schneckengruen road, north of Schneckengruen. The unit passing in review included 193 trucks, 25 jeeps, 4 motorcycles, 1 armored scout car, 3 SU-76 guns, 15 JS-3 tanks including

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57-mm AT guns, 4 heavy mortars and 4 field guns towed by trucks, and 20 field kitchens. The trucks carried 10 to 20 soldiers, and 6 trucks mounted AA machine guns. The troops marched toward the Hindenburg Kaserne. on 28 August from residents who live near the Hindenburg Kaserne that the field exercise had started in the morning of 23 August and terminated in the afternoon of 25 August. They further stated that the tanks involved had arrived at the post on 22 August and departed on 25 August. *

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Comment. The arms and motor vehicle mentioned in connection with the barracks installations confirms the presence in Plauen of the 112th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt of the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div until 12 September 1952. The bulk of the regiment participated in the field exercise at the post drill grounds at Kobitzschwalde on 25 August. It was observed marching out of the Hindenburg Kaserne on 10 September. elements of the 220th Hvy Tank SP Regt from Glauchau also took part in the practice on 25 August. The 87th Gun Arty Regt of the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div is carried in the Koenig-Georg Kaserne. the installation to have been occupied to capacity during the period from 9 to 12 September 1952, it is fairly definitely believed that elements of the regiment were at Ohrdruf during the period of observation and did not return from there before 18 and 19 September 1952. the regiments were shipped from Ohrdruf to Plauen

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